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HOUSE BILL 2389 By
Eckles

SENATE BILL 2532
By Rochelle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, Chapter
1, Part 2, relative to mental health services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 33-1-208, is amended by adding the
following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

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(1) In order to establish and maintain a subsidized, statewide "safety net" of
mental health services equivalent to the benefits package provided through
the Medicaid program or any waiver granted under the Medicaid program,
there shall be available an amount of money above and beyond the funding
provided pursuant to subsection (d) for individuals in the priority population
and the funding provided for individuals otherwise eligible for mental health
services through the Medicaid program or any waiver granted under the
Medicaid program. From such amount of money, the commissioner shall
make grants and/or payments to community mental health agencies,
community mental health centers and mental health professionals for the
provision of "safety net" mental health services for individuals who have a
medical necessity for such services but who are not within the priority

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population, are not Medicaid eligible and otherwise lack access to the financial means and resources necessary to pay full fee for such services.

- (2) All grants and payments made by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision (1) shall be distributed statewide in an equitable manner and shall be contingent upon a local funding match of at least twenty percent (20%), as established by the commissioner. All such grants and payments shall require the recipient community mental health agency, community mental health center or mental health professional to charge and collect fees on a sliding scale basis, as established by the commissioner. During any fiscal year, total grants and payments made pursuant to subdivision (1) shall not exceed the amount of money specifically allocated for such purpose by the provisions of the state's general appropriations act.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998, the public welfare requiring it.